

The Children's Defense Fund, a non-profit organization devoted to the interests of children, conducted a study of congressional votes pertaining to children in the year 2000 and has given Rep. Pete Stark a 100% rating and placed him on their list of the "Best House Members for Children." The study was based on ten critical votes that affected the interests of children.

"I am very gratified by the 100% rating granted by the Children's Defense Fund for my voting record in the year 2000," Rep. Stark said. "Fighting for the best interests of children is one of my highest priorities. I'm honored that the Children's Defense Fund chose to recognize my work to improve the lives of children."

The CDF study was based on ten critical votes in the second session of the 106th Congress. These votes included: supporting the Child Abuse Prevention Act; supporting a minimum wage increase; opposing the reduction of child care funding; opposing the repeal of the estate tax; opposing the reduction of funding for after school programs; opposing the reduction of gun safety programs; supporting funding for low-income housing; supporting the Child Support Distribution Act; supporting the Violence Against Women Act; and supporting the Children's Health Act.

In commenting on the CDF ratings, Marian Wright Edleman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, stated: "We are a wealthy nation. We have the resources to make children a priority. Sick, hungry, abused, neglected, and illiterate children who cannot vote, lobby, speak, or protect themselves need the entire Congress to meet its responsibility to protect and treat them justly."

Rep. Stark concluded: "Many of our current leaders talk about leaving no child behind. But talk is cheap. We must act. I pledge myself to working every day in Congress toward improving the lives of children and I call on all of my colleagues to do the same."